



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN Aerospace Technology & Defence and Unmanned Systems

The Alberta HUB region is uniquely positioned to explore opportunities with the Aerospace Technology & Defence and Unmanned Systems industries (ATDUS) to both facilitate the economic diversification of the region and expand the AD&T sector. A driving motivation is the location of the Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Cold Lake 4-Wing within the region, one of four military bases operating in Alberta, and alignment to several Government of Canada defence priorities.

Canada

Canada is among the leading aerospace nations in the world. The new defence policy, "Strong, Secure, Engaged" has and will create significant economic development activity within Canada. The theme of the new policy is modernization of Canada's military.

Alberta

Four military bases operate in Alberta including CFB Edmonton, CFB Cold Lake, CFB Wainwright, and CFB Suffield. Collectively, the bases generate over \$10M in local procurement and services annually within the Province of Alberta.

The niche areas—robotics and unmanned vehicle systems, defence electronics, aerospace-based geomatics, and scientific research; manufacturing, maintenance, repair and overhaul and logistic support to the military - serve to define Alberta Internationally.

Alberta's Aerospace and Defence Profile includes:

- Unmanned vehicle systems with ecosystem in and around Foremost, AB
- Logistic Support to the military
- Aerospace Based Geomatics and Scientific Research
- Defence Electronics
- MMRO - Alberta is renowned for comprehensive manufacturing, maintenance, repair, overhaul, modification and modernization of military and commercial aircraft

Spending to increase to **\$32.7B** in 2026-2027

CFB Cold Lake 4-Wing and the CFB Weapons Range provide unique facilities for advanced commercial and research opportunities in agriculture, energy, aerospace, environmental sectors.

\$1.3B revenue over **\$10M** local procurement



\$6.2B
GDP

66,000
Jobs

2nd
most research-
intense
industry

\$22B
annual
revenues

90%
of industry
firms are
SME's

80%
output
exports



OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ALBERTA HUB REGION

Aerospace Technology & Defence

Alberta leads Canada in Unmanned Vehicle Systems (UVS) with **30%** of company headquarters

Alberta HUB Region

The Alberta HUB region is ready to advance opportunities within the ATDUS industries. CFB Cold Lake (4-wing), the largest and busiest Fighter Base in Canada, is one of the region's defining assets.

With family members, 4-Wing has a community of nearly 5,300 people.



Positioned for New Investment

Procurement

Canada's new defence policy calls for unprecedented private sector involvement with extensive refurbishment and "greening" of the existing Department of National Defence (DND) infrastructure. The Cold Lake Air Base and Cold Lake Weapons Range will be impacted.

There are significant Industrial and Technological Benefit (ITB) obligations of original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), who will be involved with the extension of the F-18 through maintenance activities and potential radar upgrades.

30% Industrial and Technological Benefit's (ITB) local OEM spend obligation
15% ITB's value of large procurement projects to be spent on SMEs

AD&T Companies

OEMs

- Peraton
- L-3MAS
- Raytheon

Defence Primes

- CAE
- Lockheed Martin
- Magellan Aerospace

Training, Research & Development

Portage College and Lakeland College have trades and technology programs, and there is opportunity for curriculum development at the University Blue Quills. Lakeland College has expertise in Unmanned Vehicle Systems and InnoTech Alberta, is a scientific, engineering and technological research and testing facility.

Portage College has a natural resources program that connects to the AD&T industries and Lakeland College has a strong focus on renewable energy, which is top of mind for defence contractors.

20,000 Estimated employees to train for AD&T industry, nationally
Engineers and pilots in highest demand





OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ALBERTA HUB REGION

Aerospace Technology & Defence

40%

HUB region
population
between "manpower"
ages of 15 – 64

Unmanned Vehicle Systems

Unmanned Vehicle Systems (UVS) are used extensively within the region, particularly with agriculture and oil and gas. Lakeland College has experience in testing UVS applications in a live environment, which links the College's use of drones with the Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) initiative.



Employment Market & Diversity

Demographics are key drivers of economic growth and the Alberta HUB region has significant "manpower" for employers to draw on. The mean age of the region's population is lower than the Alberta average, and the population is growing faster than the provincial average.

The Alberta HUB region is well positioned to become a knowledge economy. The share of Science Technology Engineering Match (STEM) occupations was three times that of the manufacturing sector.



Investment Opportunities:

1 Maintenance, Development & Remediation

- Life-cycle extensions of the CF-18 Hornet and CH-146 Griffin aircraft at Cold Lake Air Base; and the eventual recapitalization.
- Partnerships with SME's and Indigenous groups will lead to infrastructure changes, land remediation practices, conversion to green energy and other defence procurements.

2 Companies

- Defence prime partnerships with OEMs, SME's and post-secondary institutions to clear Industrial and Technological Benefit (ITB) obligations.



OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ALBERTA HUB REGION

Aerospace Technology & Defence



Investment Opportunities:

3 Training and R&D

- Prime contractors can build research consortiums and renewable energy specialization.
- Training facilities to meet growing need for aircraft maintenance, avionics and technician training programs.
- Leverage region's expertise, research capabilities, and Beyond Visual Line of Sight testing and support projects.
- Tap into Indigenous populations for employment and commercial business activities.

4 Unmanned Vehicle Systems

- Build research and development consortium between post-secondary institutions and SME(s).
- Leverage large agricultural land base as new drone friendly zones for Beyond Visual Line of Sight testing.
- Potential for new commercial test facility at CFB Weapons Range.
- Grow ROI in region's top industries for UVS application: agriculture, energy, aerospace, research and environment.

THE ALBERTA HUB INVESTMENT ADVANTAGE

Access to Markets

- Highways 41 and 36 are main corridors running north-south connecting to U.S. and Mexican markets. Highway 16 (The Yellowhead) connects the region east-west to the strategic ports in BC.
- Nine regional airports, daily air service from Lloydminster Airport and access to Edmonton International Airport.

Demographics

- A regional population of over 134,000 providing excellent labour access and immediate market access to the Edmonton Economic Region with a population of well over 1.2 million.

Education

- Skilled labour is available regionally through post-secondary education at two Colleges: Lakeland and Portage as well as the University at Blue Quills. 10 campuses are located across the region. Over 38,000 have a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree in the region.

Investment

- Major project value in the region is \$31 Billion.

Applied Research

- The region has over 43,000 sq. kms of land for research, with a substantial percentage covering boreal forest, parkland and cropland.
- InnoTech Alberta conducts the majority of alternative crop research in Alberta including Industrial Hemp.
- 'Advanced innovation-based applied research programs' at Lakeland College in Crop Research, Livestock Research, Energy Research and Business Development.
- Portage College is home to Canada's first Pipeline Training Centre in Boyle, Alberta.
- Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Cold Lake 4-Wing and the CFB Weapons Range provide unique facilities for advanced commercial and research opportunities in agriculture, energy, aerospace, environmental sectors.



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